Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL BUCHAREST 4363

CORRECTED COPY (TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: XA, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN AFRICAN POLICY

- 1. EMBOFFS CALLED ON MFA'S COUNSELOR FOR SOUTH AND EAST AFRICAN AFFAIRS 22 JUNE IN VIEW OF HIGHER PROFILE AFRICA SEEMS TO BE TAKING IN ROMANIA'S RECENT FOREIGN POLICY PRONOUNCEMENTS. ALTHOUGH GUARDED, BEC MADE A FEW COMMENTS WHICH MAY BE WORTH PASSING ON.
- 2. AS HE EXPLAINED ROMANIAN POLICY IN AFRICA, IT APPEARS TO BE BASED ON TWO MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE PRINCIPLES. THE FIRST IS THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS MUST BE SOLVED BY THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES WITH NO INTERFERENCE FROM OUTSIDERS. ALLUDING TO THE SEVEN YEARS HE SPENT IN AFRICA, HE SAID THAT HIS AFRICAN FRIENDS HAD TOLD HIM THEY WANTED NO ONE ELSE "TO DO THEIR DYING FOR THEM". ON THE OTHER HAND IT IS NECESSARY TO HELP THE "REAL AFRICANS" AND ROMANIA IS PROVIDING "POLITICAL AND MATERIAL" AID TO LIBERATION CONFIDENTIAL

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MOVEMENTS. HE TACITLY ADMITTED TO THE RECENT MUGABE VISIT TO ROMANIA BUT DIEFNOT OFFER ANY INFORMATION ON ITUIPURPOSE. HE ALSO SIDE STEPPED A QUESTION ON THE ACCREDITATION OF THE ZANU REPRESENTATIVE IN BUCHAREST. (ACCORDING TO OTHER INFORMATION, LIKE THE PLO REPRESENTATIVE HERE HE IS ACCREDITED TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, RATHER THAN TO THE ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT.) WHILE DISCUSSING THE VARIOUS

RHODESIAN LEADERS HE ADMITTED, SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY, THAT THE INTERNAL GROUP ALSO HAS A POPULAR FOLLOWING.

- 3. BEC THOUGHT THAT THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCE BEING FORMED IS A MISTAKE, ESPECIALLY AS DRIVING FORCE BEHIND IT IS NOT AFRICAN. HE CALLED IT A FRENCH FORCE. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION, HE IMPLIED THAT ROMANIA MIGHT BE MORE FAVORABLE TO A U.N. SPONSORED FORCE.
- 4. HE CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY CATEGORICAL STATEMENTS ABOUT CUBAN ROLE IN AFRICA OR HOW CUBA'S ACTIVITIES ARE AFFECTING ITS STATUS IN THE NAM. HOWEVER, HE DID SAY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT "COULD NOT COMMEND" CUBA'S AFRICAN ROLE.
- 5. COMMENT: BEC'S JUSTIFICATION OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S DOUBLE STANDARD SEEMED TO BE THAT IT WAS SIMPLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA WON THEIR "INDEPENDENCE", THAT THE NEW STATES WOULD BE EVENTUALLY RUN BY TODAY'S LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND THAT IT WOULDN'T HUR FOR ROMANIA TO BE ON THE WINNING SIDE.
- 6. FOR DEPT. PLEASE REPEAT TO APPROPRIATE POSTS AS DESIRED.
 AGGREY

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